



# MORRINSVILLE

## Intermediate School

**Kia U Ki Te Pai** Whatever You Do, Let It Be Your Best



24 Elizabeth Avenue  
office@mi.school.nz  
(07) 889 6629

**Empowering Learners to Succeed**  
Hei whakamana nga ākonga  
i te whai ao

# Newsletter



## Term 1 Week 7 Newsletter 2025

Kia ora e te whānau, nau mai haere mai ki te panui Wiki Whitu

We hope you have had a good week and that you are adjusting to these cooler mornings; I must say I love Autumn!

On Friday 7th March we welcomed our Japanese students from Shibuya Makuhari High School; this is an annual exchange which incorporates most Waikato Intermediate / Middle Schools and has been going for around thirty years.

We were lucky to host 22 students this year who were an absolute delight - they are always so polite and well mannered, and genuinely curious about 'how we do things around here'; they love learning about our culture and country and getting involved in the diverse range of learning opportunities.

I want to say a huge thank you to all host families who have very generously opened their homes to the students, been so kind and caring and given them some very memorable experiences throughout their visit; lifetime friendships can come from exchanges such as these. A BIG thank you also to:

- Mrs Carolyn Nicholson who has been our liaison person; we appreciate your mahi (work) Carolyn to ensure everything went smoothly while the students were in school.
- Ngati Hāua kaumatua and kuia who supported us with our welcome pōwhiri last Monday; we appreciate your valuable partnership with us
- Mrs Michelle Cook for the amazing job you do with all the paperwork behind the scenes and matching up students with host families - this is an important component of the programme and you do it so well!

The next chapter in this exchange involves 60 students from the Waikato, including eight students from MIS, travelling to Japan in September. Applications for 2026 travel will begin in Term 4 2025.



*MJHS student arriving*



*Lunchtime softball*



*Maddie teaching rākau games*

As you will be aware, this year we are implementing the refreshed New Zealand Maths Curriculum. We have already begun our structured approach to Maths through the use of a school-wide maintenance programme, and Maths Whizz (online learning tool). The next step is to introduce PR1ME Maths; our textbooks have just arrived and we are in the process of front-loading teachers with both process and content, and we envisage starting to use these from Term 2 onwards.

Finally, you will also be aware that there is a national focus on **improving regular attendance** at school. I've already shared the fact we are wanting all our students to attend at least 90% of the time. From this week, we will be sharing your child's attendance data weekly. A BIG thank you to parents / whānau who are making daily attendance a priority for your child/ren.

Kind regards

**Jenny Clark**  
**(Principal)**

Featuring in today's newsletter:

Rangatiratanga Award

Gold for Glory

Attendance Award

WAIBOP Schools Mountain Bike Championships

Student Learning Conversations

Cyber safety tips

Road Safety

Is It Rude? Is it Mean? Is it Bullying?

Parent Learning Workshop Evening TONIGHT

Wellbeing Survey

Term Dates 2025

Term One calendar

Teacher Only Days



Teachers v Students Volleyball

**Rangatiratanga Award (doing the best for yourself):** During Friday Assembly one student per class is acknowledged for demonstrating Rangatiratanga, specifically one of Key Competency indicators. The focus was Co-operation in Week 5 and 6:

Congratulations to the following students from Week 5: Brax P1, Eva P2, Kayden P3, Isla P4, Danny P5, Honour T1, Embree T2, Jennifer T3, Ishan T4, Archie W1, Ethan W2, Savannah W3, Georgia W4, Phoenix Science, Anushka Food Tech, Victor Materials, Leo Art, Mia Performing Arts and Week 6: Hailey P1, Kayden P2, Charlotte P3, Harman P4, Kynn P5, Talullah T1, Amaia T2, Matthew T3, Bharui T4, Zoe W1, Sam W2, Gia W3, Trey W4, Rex Science, Dom Food Tech, Gia Materials, Laura Art, Peyton Performing Arts.

**Gold For Glory:** At each assembly students are recognised by the principal for showing initiative, or going the extra mile by demonstrating our school vision, motto and values. The recipients in Week 5 were: Humeira K, Rachel G, Kyle B. The recipient in Week 6 was Harman Singh (T. 1). Well done to these students!

**Attendance Award:** Congratulations to Libby Room T4 was the recipient of the \$10 attendance voucher. All students who obtained 100% attendance during Week 5 were in the draw.

Please remember it is important for students to have days off only for justified reasons (illnesses, bereavements; not birthdays, shopping, hair cuts etc please). Thanks for your support.

**WAIBOP Schools Mountain Bike Championships:**

Twelve students from MIS competed in the WAIBOP MTB Championship competition last Wednesday in the individual and / or relay events. Although students were entered under our school banner, this was a parent driven event. Well done to all students who got involved and congratulations on the following top 10 placings:

3rd Year 8 Boys: Kyte Waterson

3rd Year 7 & 8 Relay: Kyte Waterson, Preston Scott and Jacob Clements

5th Year 7 Boys: Jacob Clements

9th Year 7 Girls: Eva Kraenzlin



**Student Learning Conversations (SLC):**

Student Learning Conversations will take place during Week 9. SLCs are a valuable opportunity to share how your child is progressing in their learning, and at school in general. S.L.C.s will be held on Wednesday 2nd April from 1.30pm to 7.00pm and Thursday 3rd April from 3.15pm to 6.30pm.

**Please note:** normal classes will finish at 1.00pm on Wednesday 2nd April but school will be open for an alternative programme for those who remain at school. However, if students do go home we ask that they learn remotely for the afternoon when not meeting with their teacher; teachers will be setting up an online 'home learning' (hybrid learning) to ensure they fulfil their learning requirements of one hour Reading, Writing and Maths, for the day.

Parents / caregivers are all invited, and encouraged, to book a 15 minute slot to meet with teachers via

[www.schoolinterviews.co.nz](http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz). The event code is rzqwx or use the link below:

<https://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz/code/rzqwx>

### Cyber Safety Messages: Constable Tash Snowden:

Recently Constable Tash Snowden joined us at assembly to share some valuable lessons on how to be safe online (see below). As a school, we also explicitly teach Common Sense Education which is an online safety programme (this will happen throughout the year).

Unfortunately one of the most common causes of issues at school is the way in which students interact with each other digitally .... particularly on apps such as Snapchat, Facebook, Tik Tok, Instagram, X etc. They get caught up in the 'drama' that is very easy to escalate, which then spills into school.

As parents, we urge you to ensure you know what activities your children are involved in; there are lots of ways to monitor this. If you need any support please don't hesitate to contact us for help.

**HOW TO BE SAFE ONLINE**

- ▶ **Keep it locked** – Passwords and Pin codes
- ▶ **Keep it private**- Some information when shared publicly can make you vulnerable to identity theft or grooming.
- ▶ **Keep it helpful**- A digital footprint is the trail of electronic bread crumbs. It can last a long time.
- ▶ **Keep it real**- Don't talk to people you haven't met in real life. This includes invites or conversations with strangers.
- ▶ **Keep it friendly**- Be kind and respectful. Not to bully others

**STUFF TO KNOW**

- Never respond** to harassing or rude comments.
- Save** or print the evidence.
- Talk** to your parents or guardian if you are harassed; get help reporting this to your school, or local law enforcement.
- Respect** others online.
- Only share your password with your **parent or guardian**.
- Change** your passwords often.
- Password **protect** your cell phone.
- Use privacy settings to **block unwanted messages**.
- Think before posting** or sending photos – they could be used to hurt you.
- Contact** the site administrator if someone creates a social networking page in your name.

**STAY SAFE AND STOP CYBER BULLYING**

NEW ZEALAND POLICE  
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

### Road Safety:

During assembly we reiterated some important strategies, or road safety behaviours, to help ensure our tamariki are kept safe. These included:

- Using patrolled crossings (Elizabeth Avenue)
- Using the 'Top Gate' for drop offs / pickups
- Looking both ways before crossing
- Walking across roads (not running)
- Wearing a bike helmet (ideally on a scooter too)
- Not using your phone when walking or crossing roads
- Not wearing headphones / airpods when crossing roads
- Walk BEHIND a bus (never in front)
- Parents avoiding parking opposite the bus bay for drop offs / pickups
- Never crossing on the corner of Elizabeth Avenue/Coronation Road (parents please avoid parking there also)



We thank you all in anticipation of reiterating these key messages with your child and help us out by parking in safe places that reduce the risk of danger.



# is it BULLYING?

When someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's  
**RUDE.**

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's  
**MEAN.**

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they *keep doing it*—even when you tell them to stop or show them that you're upset—that's  
**BULLYING.**

## Is it Rude? Is it Mean? Is it Bullying?

We work really hard to instil a culture based on mutual respect, and encourage students to think carefully about how they treat others.

We have a zero tolerance to bullying.

When issues arise between students we support them to work through them in a restorative manner unpacking the incident, who it affected and how mana can be restored.

What we notice during our support conversations is that students, and parents, sometimes go straight to 'I'm being bullied'. When we unpack what has happened, it is often a 'one-off' where someone has said or done something rude, or mean (which is still unacceptable). We share the poster on the left, to help students identify the type of behaviour they are experiencing.

It would be very helpful if you could have this conversation with your child at home, so that if they have any issues you can help them to identify exactly what happened, and how they may work through it.

## Some of the strategies to deal with others being rude, mean, or bullying include:

- Telling them to stop in a firm but respectful manner
- Ignoring them (which we understand takes a lot of tolerance and resilience) and walking away
- Telling someone they trust about what's going on e.g. their friends who may be able to help, or parents
- Telling their teacher, or any staff member

## Parent Learning Workshop Evening Thursday 20th March TONIGHT:

A reminder: we have a parent workshop tonight in our school hall from 6.00pm to 7.00pm looking at our Literacy Centre, Executive Functions, Maths Whizz, PR1ME Maths, and Writer's Toolbox. See our Facebook page for more information, all welcome!



## 2024 Wellbeing Survey: sharing some key outcomes:

Last year we used the NZCER student wellbeing at school survey to collect data from a sample group of randomly selected students (x 89) to help us determine what we were doing well at school and what we needed to focus on to strengthen. Overall, the results were very positive but did illuminate the fact that some students struggled to know how to deal with issues when they arose (prosocial strategies).

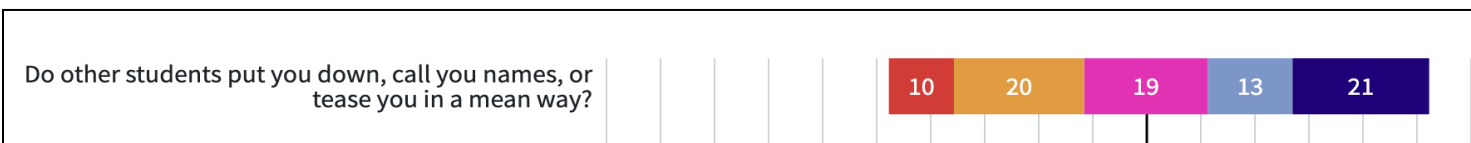
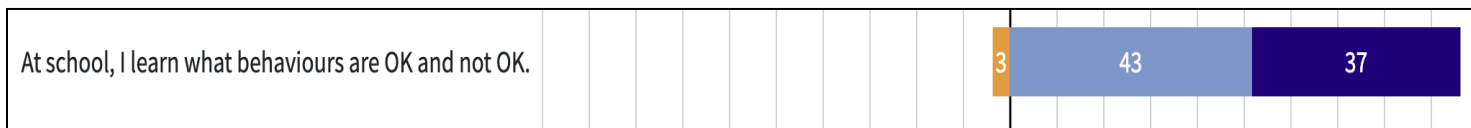
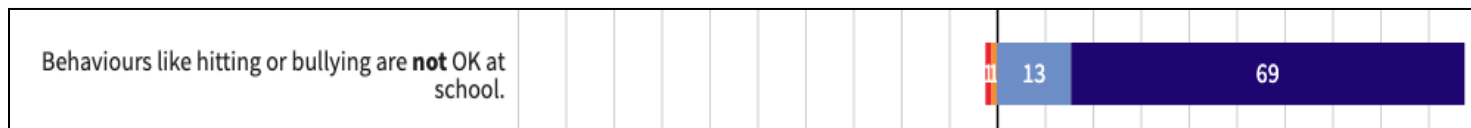
It was evident that students knew the expectations for behaviour at our school; which we continue to work hard on through embedding our school vision, values, motto and learner profile (EMPOWERED).

As you can see from the strip graphs below, students mostly believed that hitting, or bullying were NOT ok and confirmed that they were taught about what behaviours were OK and what behaviours were not. What was sad, was the fact some students communicated that students don't, or may not, respect each other, and are often mean to each other.

We are sharing this information to our ākonga with the intention that they can reflect on their choices, and make a concerted effort to ensure they are always kind, caring and empathetic. Something we say to students that I'm sure you use at home is "if you have nothing nice to say, say nothing". We also discuss the fact that none of us know what is happening in others' lives, and that it could be one rude or mean comment that could trigger something in others. Self-control is critical! We would appreciate it if you could support us by reiterating these messages at home also. We understand that you don't need to be friends with everyone, but you are expected to act in a friendly way.

We will continue to embed key messages with our students to ensure everyone feels happy and safe at our kura, as that is of paramount importance to us. This includes students consistently respecting adults regardless of their role in our school.

Key: ■ Strongly disagree ■ Disagree ■ Agree ■ Strongly agree



**School Term Dates 2025:**

- Term One: Monday 3rd February to Friday 11th April
- Term Two: Monday 28th April to Friday 27th June
- Term Three: Monday 14th July to Friday 19th September
- Term Four: Monday 6th October to Tuesday 16th December (12.30pm finish)

 MIS Calendar: FB/Newsletter [Click the link on the left to access our school calendar.](#)

**Term Calendar One events:**

- Thursday 20th March Parent Learning Workshop (6.00 pm - 7.00 pm)
- Tuesday 25th March Inter-Intermediate drama
- Wednesday 26th March Board Meeting 6.30pm
- Wednesday 2nd April Year 7 & 8 immunisations
- Wednesday 2nd April Student Learning Conversations 1.30pm to 7.00pm
- Thursday 3rd April Otago Problem Solving #1
- Thursday 3rd April Student Learning Conversations 3.15pm to 6.30pm
- 8th - 9th April Epro8 Event (inter-school)
- Thursday 10th April School disco 7pm to 9pm (school hall)
- Friday 11th April [Last day of Term One](#)
- Friday 18th April Good Friday (public holiday)
- Monday 21st April Easter Monday (public holiday)
- Friday 25th April ANZAC Day (public holiday)
- Monday 28th April [First day of Term 2](#)

**2025 Teacher Only Curriculum Days:**

- Term Two: Tuesday 3rd June (after King's Birthday).
- Term Four: Friday 24th October (before Labour weekend).

**MI Mates Easter Raffle:** A big thank you to everyone who has already sold raffle tickets or brought in Easter goodies for our hampers. Next week is the last week for selling tickets or bringing in an Easter goodie for the hampers. We have five hampers to raffle. Thanks for your support!



Please visit our school website [www.mi.school.nz](http://www.mi.school.nz)

Like us on Facebook and download our free Skool Loop App to keep up-to-date with school activities and events.